

Message Text

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ORIGIN EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 H-01 CIAE-00 FBIE-00 INSE-00 NSAE-00

NEA-06 SCA-01 RSC-01 /022 R

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P 070201Z NOV 74

FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY MOSCOW PRIORITY

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR, PINT, UR, US

SUBJECT: EMIGRATION CASE OF MIKHAIL SUSLOV

1. CONGRESSMAN VANIK'S CLEVELAND OFFICE CALLED DEPARTMENT NOVEMBER 6 REGARDING MIKHAIL SUSLOV, SOVIET JEWISH ACTIVIST WHO RECENTLY CONDUCTED HUNGER STRIKE IN MOSCOW TO PROTEST REFUSAL OF SOVIET AUTHORITIES TO GRANT HIM EXIT VISA. HUNGER STRIKE WAS REPORTED BY CHRISTOPHER WREN IN NEW YORK TIMES OCTOBER 17. ACCORDING TO WREN, STRIKE WAS TO COINCIDE WITH SOVIET UNION'S PARTICIPATION IN SAN FRANCISCO FILM FESTIVAL IN MID-OCTOBER (SUSLOV IS PRIZE WINNING CINEMATOGRAPHER).

2. WITH ACTIVE ASSISTANCE OF CONGRESSMAN VANIK, SUSLOV'S MOTHER, FATHER AND BROTHER ARRIVED IN CLEVELAND AREA TWO WEEKS AGO VIA VIENNA. FAMILY WAS IN VANIK'S OFFICE AT TIME OFFICE CALLED DEPARTMENT. FAMILY PRESUMABLY RECEIVED SOVIET EXIT PERMISSION FOR ISRAEL AND CHANGED COURSE AT VIENNA. FATHER IS 70 YEARS OLD AND IN POOR HEALTH.

3. SUSLOV'S FAMILY HAS NOT HEARD FROM HIM SINCE HE BEGAN HUNGER STRIKE AND IS GREATLY DISTRESSED. THEY PLACED

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PHONE CALL FROM CLEVELAND TO DISSIDENT SOURCE IN MOSCOW

NOVEMBER 5 BUT CONNECTION REPORTEDLY WAS BROKEN AT MOSCOW
END.

4. WE EXPLAINED TO VANIK'S STAFF THAT OUR FILES
(NATIONAL COUNCIL OF SOVIET JEWRY'S LIST OF HARSHIP
CASES) SHOW SUSLOV AS POTENTIAL EMIGRANT TO ISRAEL.
STAFF SAID THERE WAS NO DOUBT SUSLOV WISHED TO JOIN
FAMILY IN US, ALTHOUGH HE MAY HAVE APPLIED FOR EMIGRA-
TION TO ISRAEL.

5. NATIONAL COUNCIL'S LIST INDICATES THAT SUSLOV
APPLIED FOR EXIT VISA TO ISRAEL IN APRIL 1973 AND
APPLICATION IS STILL PENDING.

6. VANIK'S OFFICE RECOGNIZES DIFFICULTY EMBASSY FACES
IN OBTAINING INFORMATION ON SUCH CASES BUT WOULD APPRECI-
ATE ANY INFORMATION AVAILABLE TO EMBASSY ON SUSLOV'S
PRESENT SITUATION. INGERSOLL

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